

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 21 as follows:

Apparatus and methods according to the present invention may be used in any network that has network nodes or devices that inspect a header on content received to make decisions regarding the content. This may include, for example, routing, displaying, storing, modifying, encryption, decryption, etc. of the content. Depending on the network; the format or method used to create the content may vary. Information that has been included in the content that the developer of the content desires to be moved or included in a header associated with the content may be identified in some form. Identifiers may be associated with the information such as, for example, ~~meta~~ Meta tags, labels, tags, commands, etc. Methods and apparatus according to the present invention search the content for information with identifiers. This information is then incorporated into a header that may be created or modified and associated with the content. Therefore, when a network node receives the header and associated content, the control or other information that the developer desired to be used resides in the header whereby the network node may act on the content and/or header accordingly.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 23 as follows:

Regarding the Internet, headers are generally HTTP headers. The content may be developed using HTML or XML. If the content is created using HTML, the identifiers used to identify information in the content that may be desired to be moved to a header for use by a network node, may be ~~meta~~ Meta tags. Therefore, a developer of HTML content may use ~~meta~~ Meta tags to identify information that the developer desires to be incorporated into a HTTP

header so that it may be used by network nodes in the Internet. For XML content a variety of identifiers may be used by a developer to identify the information in the content. Further, identifiers other than meta Meta tags for HTML content may be used and still be within the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 9 as follows:

To illustrate the present invention, the following is an example HTML meta Meta tag that may reside in content:

```
<HEAD>  
    <META HTTP-EQUIV="expires" CONTENT="Thur, 05 Jul 2001 14:00:42  
        GMT>  
    </HEAD>
```

This meta Meta tag is preceded by "<HEAD>" title and ends with the "</HEAD>". This denotes that the meta Meta tag is in a head section of the HTML document. This particular meta Meta tag defines an expiration time of a document to utilize an automatic refresh in a client's browser.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 15 as follows:

This meta Meta tag is preceded by "<HEAD>" title and ends with the "</HEAD>". This denotes that the meta Meta tag is in a head section of the HTML document. This particular meta Meta tag defines an expiration time of a document to utilize an automatic refresh in a client's browser.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 19 as follows:

Methods and apparatus according to the present invention may search the content for meta Meta tags and then create or modify an HTTP header that includes the information identified by the meta Meta tag. The following is an example HTTP header generated after identification of the information in the HTML content denoted by a meta Meta tag:

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Expires: Thur, 05 Jul 2001 14:00:42 GMT

Note that the content of the meta Meta tag, i.e., the expiration time, is now in the HTTP header. This allows this information to be used by network nodes that receive the header and content as it travels across a network such as the Internet. Methods and apparatus according to the present invention may remove the information from the content once it is inserted into an HTTP header, or may simply replicate the information in the HTTP header and leave it in the content. For performance reasons, HTML meta Meta tags may only be used by client browsers and not by Internet network nodes in general. This is true since browsers generally use content and have the time to look into content. Network nodes do not have this time and, therefore, generally only look into protocol headers such as an HTTP header, for information.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 13 as follows:

Fig. 1 shows a system diagram including a network appliance according to an example embodiment of the present invention. This figure shows the interconnection between a client 10 through the Internet 12 to a data center or enterprise 14. Data center 14 may include a network appliance 16 and one or more servers 18. Device 16 may be a network device (e.g., router) that includes a network appliance that incorporates the present invention. Network appliance 16 may be hardware, software, or a combination. Moreover, network appliance 16 may reside at data center 14 or on the network outside data center 14. The Internet may include several network

nodes or devices ~~20–26~~ 20, 22, 24, and 26. Network devices ~~20–26~~ 20, 22, 24, and 26 may be any of several types of network devices, for example, routers, proxy servers, Internet caches, gateways, SSL accelerators, etc. Data center 14 may reside at a company whereby one of the servers 18 contain the corporate web page.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 1 as follows:

A developer may develop content (i.e., HTML or XML documents) at one or more of server 18. Server 18 may include applications that automatically generate headers for the content using a specific protocol (e.g., HTTP). As is noted previously, since the header may be generated at the server, a developer of content has no way of getting content specific control or other information into the HTTP header. A client desiring to access the corporate web page resident at server 18, submits a request through Internet 12 to data center 14 where it is received by server 18. Server 18 then responds by sending the appropriate web page or pages to network appliance 16. Network appliance 16 incorporates the present invention and searches the HTML or XML content for information with certain identifiers. Once located, this information is used to create or modify an HTTP header that is then attached to the content and forwarded through Internet 12. In traversing Internet 12, the content and associated HTTP header may traverse through one or more of Internet nodes ~~20–26~~ 20, 22, 24, and 26. Internet nodes ~~20–26~~ 20, 22, 24, and 26 may inspect the HTTP header to determine routing and other information or actions that may be required. Eventually, the web page including the content is supplied at client node 10.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 2 as follows:

To further illustrate the present invention, and with reference to Fig. 1, we assume that one of the Internet nodes, i.e., 20, is an Internet cache. A developer at data center 14 develops the DC01 534586v 1

HTML or XML content and incorporates Internet cache control information into the content. The content may relate to one or more web pages where each web page is a separate document, i.e., content, with its own header. Each document may require its own unique handling at an Internet cache. The developer associates the Internet cache control information in the content with an identifier. This identifier may be a meta Meta tag.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 10 as follows:

The content may be received at a network appliance 16 and then the content searched for information with identifiers, i.e., meta Meta tags. The information defined with identifiers may be used to generate or modify an HTTP header associated with each content/document. The information defined by the meta Meta tags is now incorporated into the header and this header along with the content sent across Internet 12. An Internet cache 20 may then receive the header and content and inspect the header. The Internet cache control information now contained in the header may be used to determine how long to store the particular content associated with the header. Caching helps Internet users (e.g., clients) to load web pages faster and, therefore, reduce Internet link bandwidth and web server load in electronic business (e-business) data centers. Therefore, controlling caching in the Internet is essential to reduce latency and to improve efficiency of data centers. An Internet cache has been used here for the purposes of illustrating the present invention. However, network nodes 20–26 20, 22, 24, and 26 may be any type of device as mentioned previously and still be within the spirit and scope of the present invention.